

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener according to claim 8, comprising:
~~a pair of fastener tapes each having a fastener element for engagement, said fastener elements protruding from the respective tapes and engaging with each other, thereby making it possible for the pair of fastener tapes to be joined one above the other; and~~
~~a slider for closing and opening the fastener tapes, said slider having a guide column and a top plate provided above the guide column and a bottom plate provided below the guide column;~~
~~said guide column being provided generally perpendicular to the fastener tapes;~~
~~said top plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending downward and forming a left side part while said second end extends to an open space;~~
~~said bottom plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending upward and forming a right side part while said second end extends to an open space; and~~
~~wherein left and right fastener element housings are formed between the guide column and the left and right side parts, said left and right fastener element housings preventing the fastener tapes are prevented from entering the left and right fastener element housings therein.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener according to claim 4 8 wherein the fastener elements are arranged longitudinally at locations other than the longitudinal edges of the fastener tapes.
3. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener according to claim 4 8 wherein the fastener elements are coils.

4. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener according to claim 4 8 wherein the fastener elements are rows of teeth.

5. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener for closing and opening fastener tapes comprising:
a guide column constructed to perpendicularly engage fastener[[s]] tapes;
a top plate provided above said guide column and a bottom plate provided below said guide column;
said top plate including a first and a second end, said first end extending downward and forming a left side part and said second end extending to an open space;
said bottom plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending upward and forming a right side part and said second end extending to an open space; and
wherein left and right fastener element housings are formed between the guide column and the left and right side parts, said left and right fastener element housings preventing the fastener tapes from entering therein.

6. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener according to claim 4 8, wherein a pull is provided on a side part of the slider.

7. (Original) A slide fastener according to claim 6, wherein the pull is provided with a string.

8. (Currently Amended) A slide fastener comprising:
a pair of fastener tapes each having a fastener element for engagement,
said fastener elements protruding from the respective tapes and engaging with each other, thereby making it possible for the pair of fastener tapes to be joined one above the other; and
a slider for closing and opening the fastener tapes, said slider having a guide column and a top plate provided above the guide column and a bottom plate provided below the guide column;
said guide column being provided generally perpendicular to the fastener tapes;

said top plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending downward and forming a left side part while said second end extends to an open space;

 said bottom plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending upward and forming a right side part while said second end extends to an open space; and

 wherein left and right fastener element housings are formed between the guide column and the left and right side parts, ~~wherein left and right fastener element housings are formed between the guide column and the left and right side parts~~, and the left side part extends beyond the second end of the bottom plate and the right side part extends beyond the second end of the top plate.

9. (New) A slide fastener for closing and opening fastener tapes comprising:

 a guide column constructed to perpendicularly engage fastener tapes;

 a top plate provided above said guide column and a bottom plate provided below said guide column;

 said top plate including a first and a second end, said first end extending downward and forming a left side part and said second end extending to an open space;

 said bottom plate including a first end and a second end, said first end extending upward and forming a right side part and said second end extending to an open space;

 wherein said left side part extends beyond said second end of the bottom plate and said right side part extends beyond said second end of the top plate; and

 wherein left and right fastener element housings are formed between the guide column and the left and right side parts.